

DATE: December 20, 2005

TO: Marcia Sheffels, County Superintendent of Schools
Ron Schlagenhauser, Flathead County GIS

FROM: Kris Larson, Census & Economic Information Center
Andy Boehm, Office of Public Instruction
Linda Atwood, Office of Public Instruction

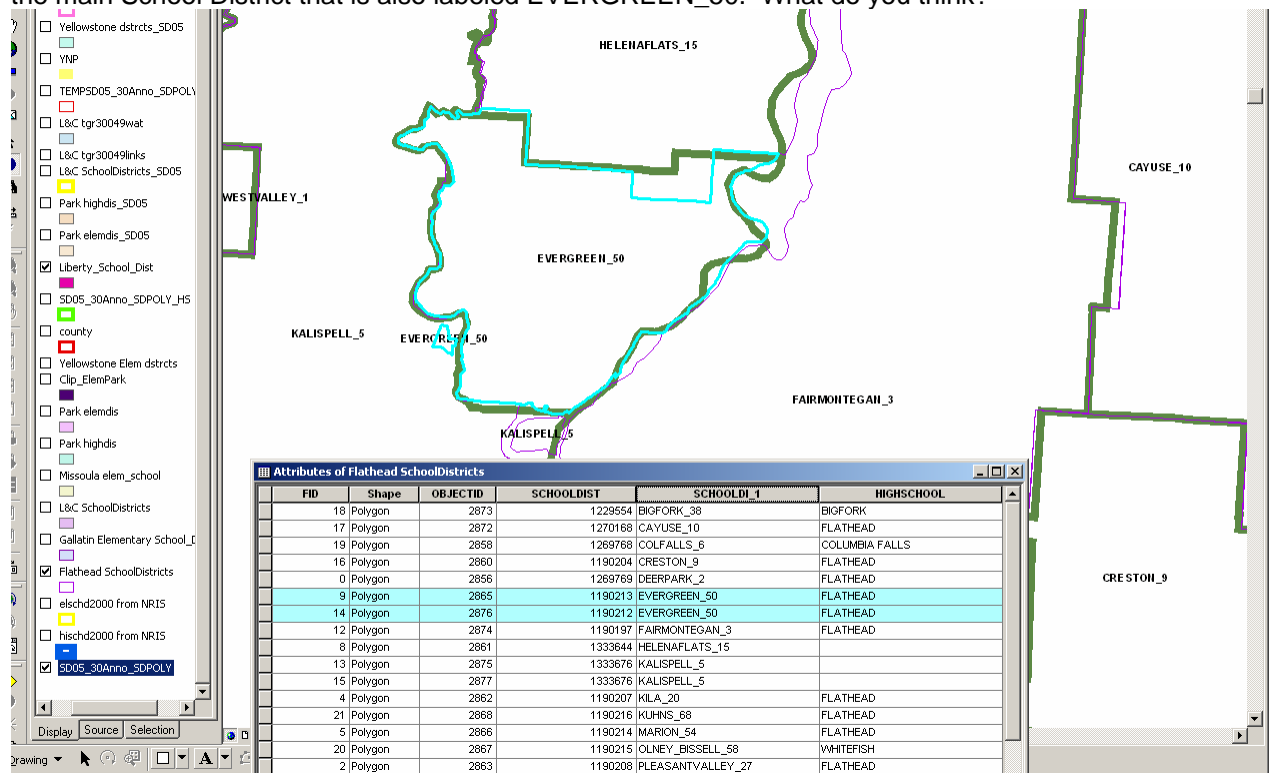
RE: School District Shapefiles

I'm working with OPI to update the School District Boundaries for the TIGER files. Ron, I actually sent you item A yesterday, but after we started working with this, we realized that we had more questions. I am sending it again so that Marcia can see & also because we've received a comment back from Joel Voytoski, the School Superintendent. When we had explained the problem by phone to Joel, he thought the county shapefile was correct. But when we sent Joel this screen shot, he said:

"The portion in the northeast corner that is being adjusted is very difficult to confirm based on the map I have in my office. I simply cannot tell if we are talking the exact same piece. However, it does not appear that it is an exact match. I want to make sure that our district is not losing more property then is called for.

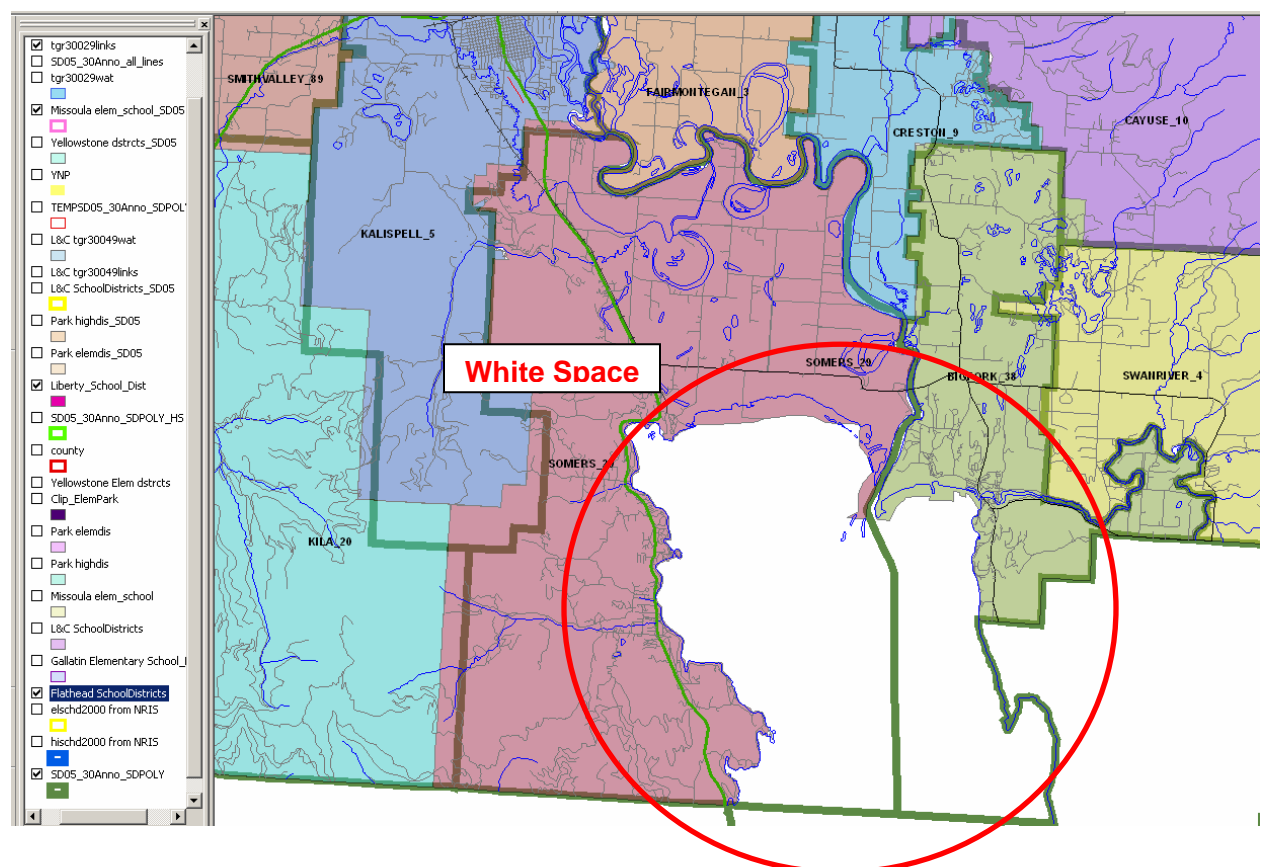
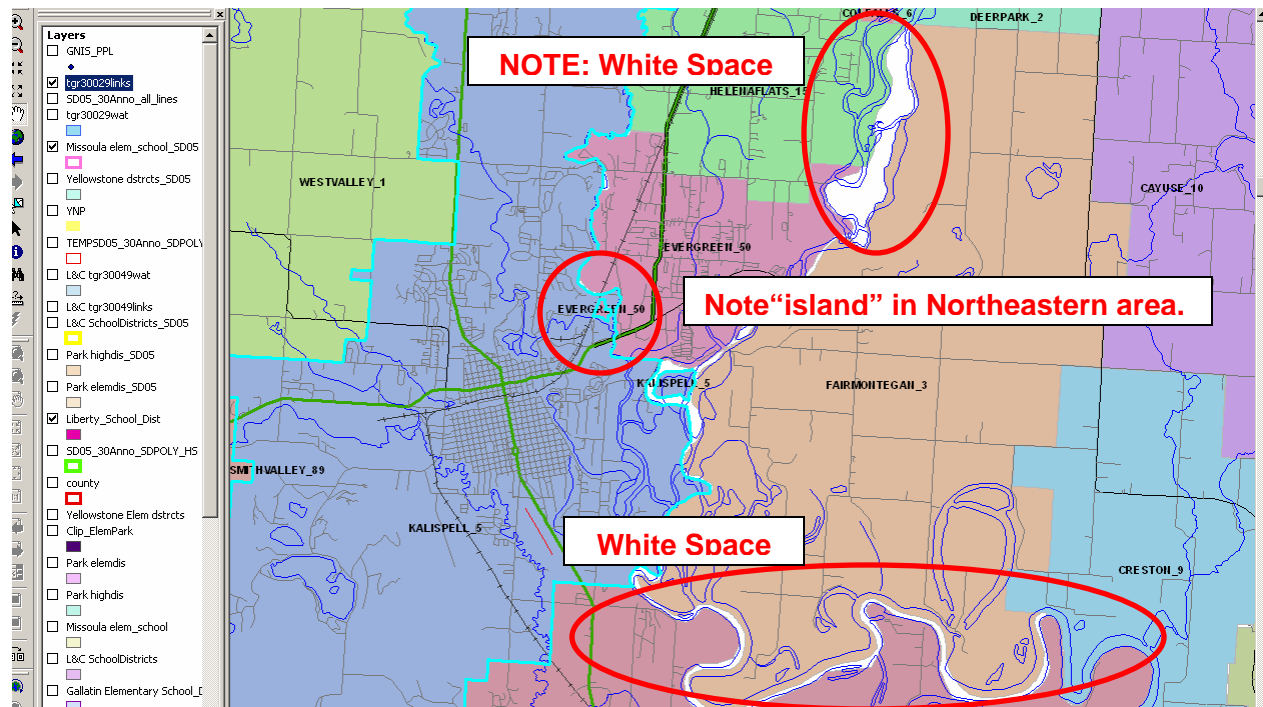
The island piece down in the southwest corner appears to be correct but again is difficult confirm with 100% accuracy."

A) In the Census shapefile, there is only one polygon called EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY which goes to FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL. This Census polygon almost matches the large polygon on the map below labeled EVERGREEN_50. (NOTE: The Census polygon is the fat green line & the Flathead County area of interest is highlighted in bright blue --- you can see that they don't follow perfectly, but closely). The Flathead County Shapefile actually shows 2 areas for Evergreen. There is a little polygon to the SW of the main School District that is also labeled EVERGREEN_50. What do you think?

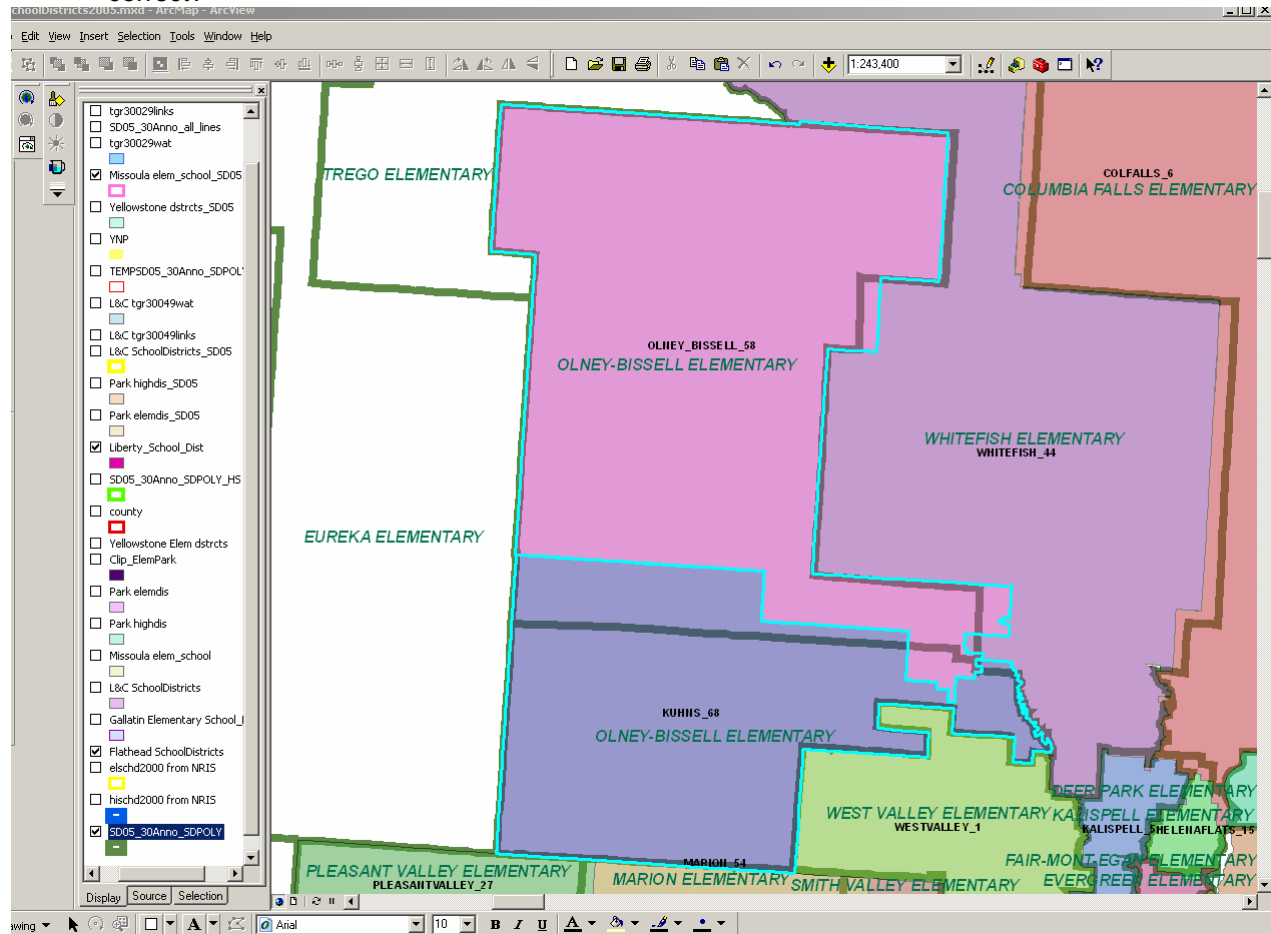


B) In the shapefile from Flathead County there are two areas called KALISPELL_5 (highlighted in bright blue). One area nearly follows the only Census School District boundary, but the Flathead County School District includes a little “island” in the Northeastern area. Is this correct?

B2) Secondly, when we symbolized the Flathead County School District shapefile by SCHOOLDI_1, there are areas of white space (i.e. “no data”) --- parts of the county have no school district assigned at all. We actually have to include water bodies in the School Districts, as it is the national and state standard. Is there some sort of rationale for the “no data” areas that we may not be aware of?

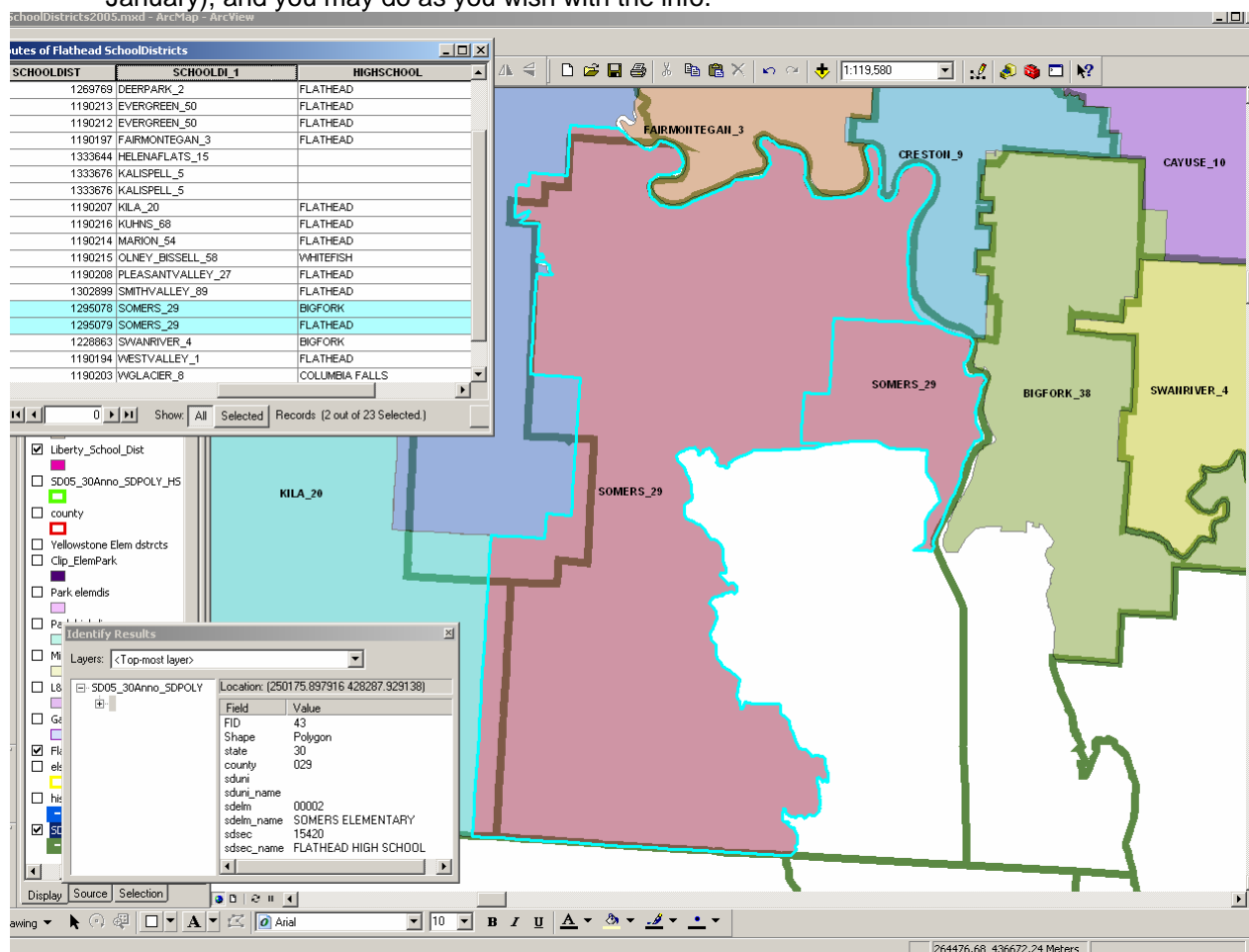


- C) In the Flathead County shapefile, there are two districts called OLNEY_BISSELL_58 and KUHNS_68.
- According to the Census Bureau shapefile, this whole area is called “OLNEY-BISSELL ELEMENTARY.”
 - In both shapefiles, the Northern elementary district goes to WHITEFISH HIGH SCHOOL; the Southern elementary district goes to FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL. Regardless, the lines in the Census shapefile, don't follow the lines in the Flathead County shapefile. Which lines are correct?



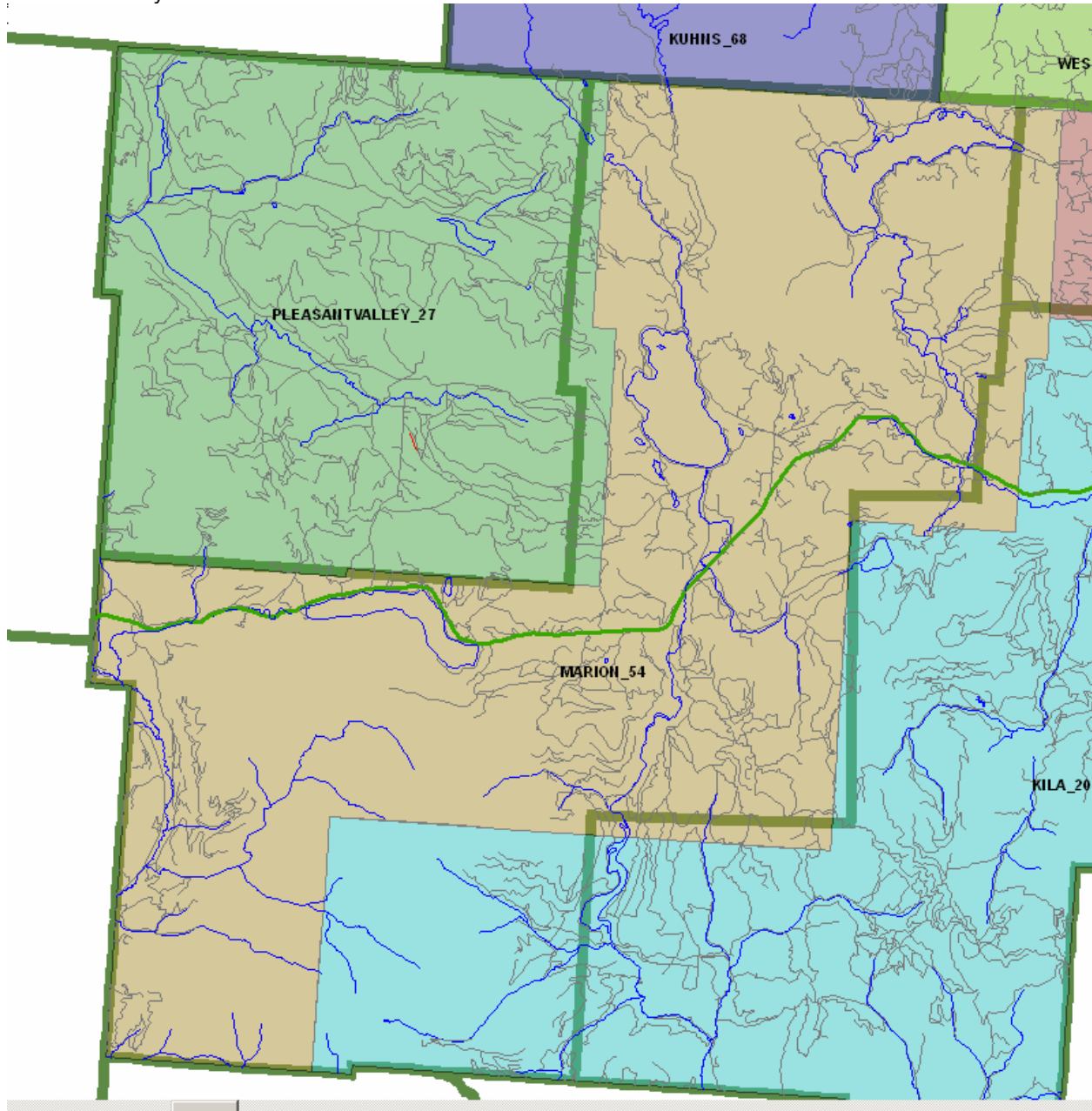
D) In the Flathead County Shapefile, there are two districts called SOMERS_29. The elementary school district on the West goes to FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL, and the little elementary school district on the East goes to BIGFORK HIGH SCHOOL.

- According to the Census Bureau Shapefile, this whole area is SOMERS ELEMENTARY & it all goes to FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL. NOTE: I am using the term “this whole area” loosely, as the area described by Census is quite a bit different than the area described by the Flathead County shapefile. Which area is correct?
- Also (mentioned previously) water bodies such as Flathead Lake that are considered white space (or “no data”) by Flathead County, are actually included in the Census Bureau and OPI School Districts. For our purposes, we HAVE to move the boundary to include the lake. You, of course, may do whatever you like with your version of the shapefile. We’ll send you our final shapefile after we have incorporated all suggestions when we are done with this project (hopefully early January), and you may do as you wish with the info.



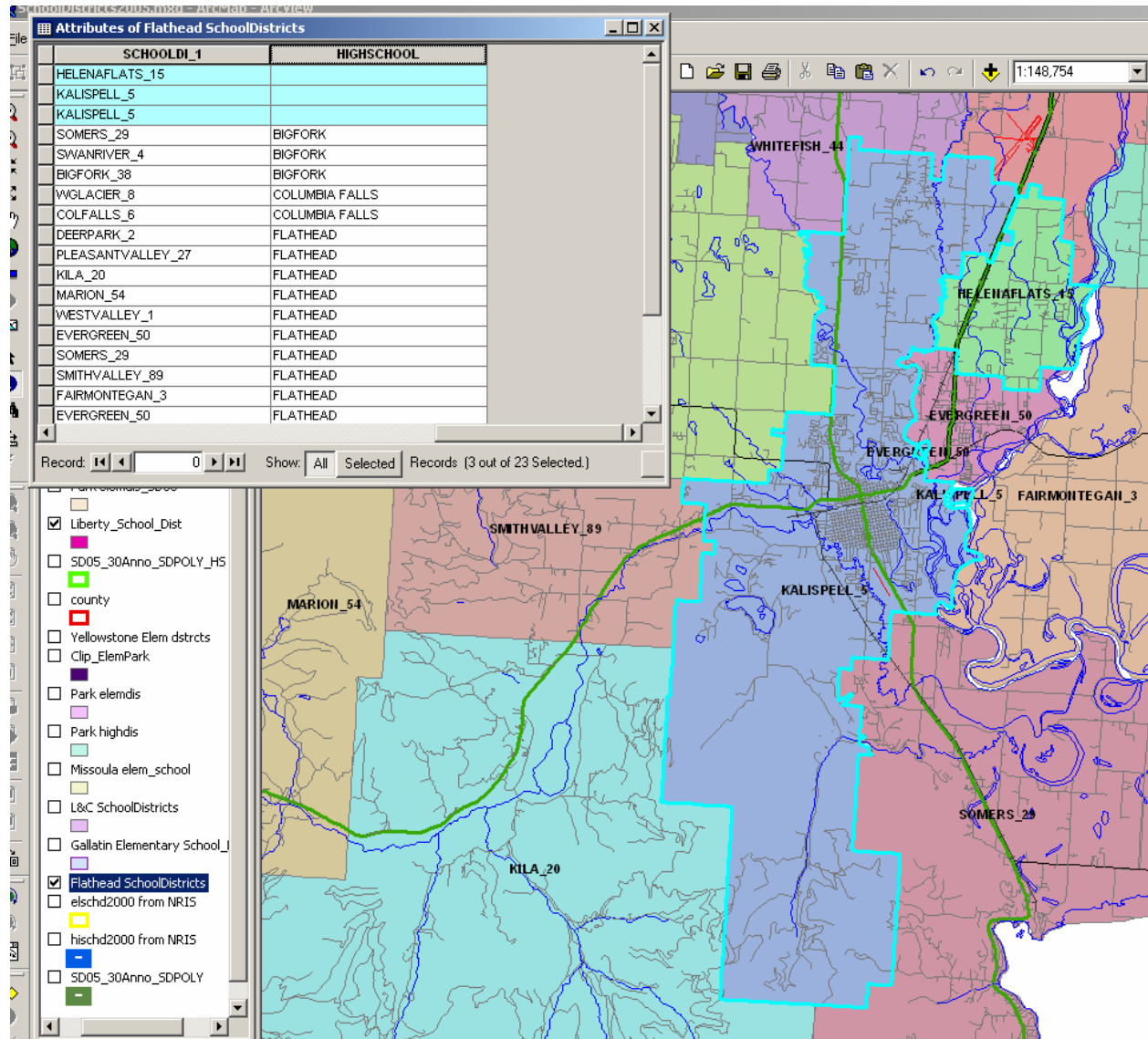
E) The Kila School District is shown below in light blue from Flathead County. According to the Census Bureau (fat green lines), the Kila School District ends on it's Southwestern border roughly 10 miles East of where Flathead County says it ends.

E2) Similarly, the Marion School District is shown in light brown from Flathead County. According to the Census Bureau, it's Southeastern border is roughly 10 miles East of the County School District boundary. What boundary is correct?



F) There is no high school listed in the Flathead County School District shapefile for HELENAFLATS_15 and both areas of KALISPELL_5.

- According to the Census Bureau, they all go to FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL
- **ANSWER: Census is correct. "FLATHEAD HIGH SCHOOL" This is just FYI. No questions!!!**



G) The HELENA FLATS area is shown in the center of the screen shot below in bright green from Flathead County.

- As you can see, the boundary is quite a bit different from the School District boundary provided by the Census (fat green lines). It's a larger issue in this more heavily populated area because funding could be effected by different boundary lines. Which boundary is correct?
- Again, for OUR project, we have to get rid of the white space ("no data") areas.

